



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

September 21, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Jerry King, Commissioner David Brown, Councilman Tim Lovain, Commissioner Christine Michaelis, Commissioner Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Ryan Jones, Commissioner Stephen Klejst, and Commissioner James Lewis and Commissioner Melissa McMahon

Commissioners Absent: Councilman John Chapman

Staff Present: Allan Fye – T&ES, Patrick Reed - T&ES, and Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Karen Callahan -T&ES, Mary Catherine Collins, P&Z

Chair Jerry King called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. July 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chair Jerry King asked if there were any edits to the meeting minutes. Mr. King had provided minutes to staff previously. There being no additional edits, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Jakubek. The minutes were voted on and approved with eight in favor and one abstention by Commissioner McMahon.

2. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received Funding Updates and Project Updates on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; the King Street Metrorail Station; the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan Amendment; the SafeTrack Update; and the City Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Jones inquired about the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan Amendment. T&ES Deputy Director Carrie Sanders stated the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan Advisory Group held public meetings and work sessions to provide input on two different street framework options. Staff recommended Option 2 because it provides an additional 1.5 acres of open space, creates a more active and pedestrian friendly space at the future Potomac Yard Metro station (north entrance), allows for a phased development and continued study of the design of Potomac Avenue and the future Transitway, and maximizes ridership for the Metroway. At their August 29, 2016 meeting, the North Potomac Yard Advisory Group recommended moving forward with Option 2. The Planning Commission held a work session on September 8, 2016 to receive an update on the planning process. The transportation analysis will be conducted over the fall /winter to identify the impacts of the build

scenario.

3. Commission Updates

Commissioner Jakubek reported he was appointed to the Eisenhower West-Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group. At the first meeting, City staff presented an overview of both the Landmark/Van Dorn Corridor Plan, and the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, highlighting plan goals, general land use strategies, neighborhood development, and implementation phasing. There was an overview of the Air Quality Monitoring and Analysis Study around Covanta that is expected to be complete by mid-January. The study will determine next steps needed in order to redevelop adjacent use.

Commissioner Lewis reported that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names issued recommendations on the four topics City Council directed it to consider. They concluded that the Appomattox statue on South Washington Street should remain in place. The name of Jefferson Davis Highway in the City of Alexandria should be changed. Individual requests for new street names to replace those named after Confederate figures should be considered by City Council. No action is needed with regard to a specific policy on flying of any flags on property owned or under the control of the City. After the City Council public hearing, Council directed the City Manager to begin the process of renaming Jefferson Davis Highway by generating staff recommendations on specific approaches for implementation, including a robust community engagement/consultation process. Council accepted the Group's recommendation for other street names in the City. Council directed City staff to initiate a discussion with the United Daughters of the Confederacy regarding the possibility of moving the Appomattox statue to the nearby corner of the Lyceum, adding contextual information, to consider adding to the City's legislative package a request for authority to move the statue, and to monitor the results of the Governor's Task Force and report back to Council with recommendations.

Councilman Lovain reported at the last Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting, it was determined that there are approximately 550 projects that are included in state, local and regionally approved plans, but are not currently included in the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP). TPB's Long Range Plans Task Force will develop a report on Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 activities. Phase 1 is a technical scenario analysis performed for the region's unfunded projects (all projects come from locally approved and adopted plans and programs). This report has been completed but not yet published. It will feature a baseline analysis comparing the CLRP (Planned Build) with the All-Build and the No-Build scenarios. Phase 2 will include a smaller sub-set of multi-modal unfunded projects that would represent the region's priorities, and will be under development in calendar year 2017. Phase 3 restructures the region's financially Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) into a comprehensive long range plan with both a financially constrained set of projects and an aspirational section that would reflect the unfunded projects. This activity will occur in 2017 and 2018.

Commissioner Klejst stated the DASH has recently implemented its fall service changes. These include a rerouting of the AT-8 bus to terminate at Braddock Metrorail station instead of terminating in Fairfax and has been well received by the ridership. He added there has been an increase in the AT-3 and AT-4 ridership as a result of those routes being used during the WMATA safe track surges. General Manager Sandy Modell announced her retirement and the Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) Board is engaged in an executive search for her replacement.

Commissioner Klejst noted that at the Motorcoach Task Force's 4th meeting, the group unanimously approved policy statements regarding loading / unloading and short term parking. At the previous meetings, the Task Force approved staff's review criteria with minor modifications.

4. 2016 Transportation Long Range Plan – Public Hearing

T&ES Acting Division Chief Steve Sindiong stated that after the Commission holds a public hearing, staff will ask the Commission to approve the 2016 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP). He reported the most recent draft 2016 LRP includes changes based on the guidance provided by the Commission at its April 20, 2016 work session. A number of projects and studies have been removed, consolidated, or moved to a new developer contingent list. A number of plans have been recently approved since the 2015 LRP, including the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, Oakville Triangle-Route 1 Corridor Plan, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update. The primary unfunded projects from those plans have been added to the 2016 LRP. The projects are prioritized based on the ranking evaluation provided by the Commission, and endorsed at the July 20, 2016 meeting.

There being no discussion amongst the Commissioners on the matter, Chair King opened the Public Hearing. Mr. James Durham of 622 Fort Williams Parkway stated he has watched the Commission go through this selection process for four years and remains impressed with the tremendous job they perform. Mr. Durham continued that the 2016 LRP is the best he's seen in four years. He asked the Commission and staff to vehemently convey to Council the importance of these projects to the City and the amount of funds needed as part of the budget process. He added that approval of this LRP gives Council opportune notice, in advance of November budgeting, to not allocate WMATA all of the transportation funds in the budget.

After the public hearing was closed, Commissioner Michaelis stated that she noticed two joggers on Seminary Road where no sidewalk exists. This is a major safety issue and the City needs to stay vigilant in making pedestrian safety improvements.

Commissioner Michaelis made a motion to approve the 2016 Transportation Long Range Plan as prioritized by the Commission and advanced by staff. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

5. I-395 Express Lanes

T&ES Deputy Director Carrie Sanders introduced the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) staff Susan Shaw and Amanda Baxter, and Tim Roseboom of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). Ms. Shaw, the overall Project Manager gave a brief project update. She stated funding for the project is a result of a \$165 million dollar federal grant to improve more than 50 miles of the I-95/I-395 Corridor from Fredericksburg to the Pentagon. She stated they are working with TransUrban to get a finalized proposal. She described the roles and responsibilities of VDOT/DRPT and I-95 Express. They are currently working to conclude the scope. The purpose of the toll project is to reduce congestion by providing additional travel choices through the conversion of the HOV lanes to Express or High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, travel predictability and roadway safety. Key improvements will be extending express lanes to the vicinity of Eads Street near the Pentagon, providing new travel options for single-occupant drivers, installing an active traffic management system to keep traffic moving, providing sound walls for nearby neighborhoods, improving connections between the I-395 Express Lanes and Eads Street, and providing dedicated annual funding for transit. Vehicles with three or more people can use the express lanes for free, while vehicles with fewer than three people can choose to pay a variable toll and use the express lanes. The improvements will be built within the existing footprint of the I-395 HOV lanes except the sound walls. The two existing HOV lanes will be converted to express lanes and a third lane will be added, providing three reversible express lanes. The existing HOV ramps

will convert to HOT ramps. The Seminary Road south facing ramp will remain limited to HOV-only at all times. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2017 with the new extended lanes opening in 2019.

Amanda Baxter of VDOT stated the draft environmental assessment document is completed and can be found on the VDOT website. Hard copies will be available at VDOT offices and in Arlington County locations and at Beatley Library for review. The largest environmental assessment finding was the noise impact. 8.1 miles of sound walls been identified as being feasible. She mentioned VDOT wanted to build a sound wall south of Seminary Road but it was voted down by the Alexandria community during the BRAC Mark Center project. That wall is under consideration as part of this project and up for a community vote. You must live in the study area and your property would be impacted by a wall that mitigates noise and benefits you, to vote on the construction of the wall.

Tim Roseboom, the Northern Virginia Manager of Transit Planning for DRPT, provided an overview of the transit and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) study. DRPT worked with all the jurisdictions located along the corridor from Spotsylvania to North Arlington, and includes two Commissions, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) and the two major rail operators Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and WMATA. The study will identify transit services and TDM program enhancements that can be funded by the annual transit investment payments. The State has committed to provide at least \$15 million annually for I-95/I-395 transit and TDM initiatives. Eligible projects for funding will increase mobility and move more people along I-95 and I-395 and benefit toll payers in the I-395 corridor. Projects could include new local bus and rail service, park and ride lots, enhanced service to existing routes, and TDM program enhancements.

Mr. Roseboom introduced Tom Harrington. Mr. Harrington stated in the weekday a.m. peak period, there are 65,000 persons carried in 40,000 vehicles northbound. 54% of the person trips are on the HOV lanes. Transit vehicles are less than 1% of the vehicles but carry 12% of person trips. The Alexandria projects include improvements to DASH services, the DASH bus garage, West End Transitway and Duke Street Transitway, King Street and Van Dorn Metrorail Station improvements, Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, new expanded transit centers and Landmark Mall and Mark Center.

The Commission provided comments on the project, including the need to look beyond the year 2040 since the region will continue to grow, and asked that staff keep the Commission informed about decisions that are made and the funding model that is developed.

6. Other Business

Chair Jerry King welcomed Melissa McMahon as the newest member to the Commission who represents the Planning Commission. He stated that a vote for the Commission Vice Chair should be held off until the Environmental Policy Commission representative has been appointed to the Transportation Commission. He also stated that the ATC Board will hold a retreat this fall, and will discuss the issue of having a separate Transportation Commission representative to the ATC Board.

At 9:20 p.m., Commissioner Michaelis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.